Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 H-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MMS-01 $/047~\mathrm{W}$

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R 060822Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8491 INFO AMCONSUL NAHA COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN CDRUSARJ CAMP ZAMA JAPAN CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 2949

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR. JA

SUBJ: ARMY REDUCTION IN FORCE

REF: A. COMUSARJ 040726Z MAR (REPEATED INFO DEPT)

B. TOKYO 2477

C. TOKYO 1940 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE ARMY HAS REQUESTED AUTHORITY TO RIF 4,150 LOCAL EMPLOYEES, MOSTLY ON OKINAWA. THIS ACTION MUST BE INTEGRATED INTO A COORDINATED, OVERALL US FORCES APPROACH TO CHANGES NOW UNDER WAY AND INFORMED TO GOJ BEFORE SEPARATE RELATED ACTIONS TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

- 1. USARJ HAS REQUESTED AUTHORITY (REF A) TO RIF 4,150 LOCAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING 3,400 ON OKINAWA DURING FY 76.
- 2. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF A SERVICE-BY-SERVICE, PIECE MEAL APPROACH TO THE COMMAND AND FORCE DEPLOYMENT CHANGES NOW UNDERWAY OR EXPECTED IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC. WE HAVE STRESSED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH WHICH PROVIDES A CONVINCING RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGES IN TERMS OF U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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LONG TERM SECURITY INTENTIONS WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO MEAN-

INGFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOJ, AND THAT WITHOUT SUCH CONSULTATIONS, CONFIDENCE IN U.S. INTENTIONS AND CREDIBILITY OF U.S. INTEREST IN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP WILL BE AT STAKE. THE ARMY REQUEST BRINGS THIS PROBLEM INTO CRITICAL RELIEF.

3. THE EMBASSY ACCEPTS THE NEED FOR CHANGE, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THE NEED FOR REDUCTIONS IN OUR EXPENSIVE LOCAL WORK FORCE. RIFS OF THIS MAGNITUDE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE CONSIDERABLE ADVERSE IMPACT, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY ON OKINAWA WHERE SUDDEN ADDITIONS TO COMMUNITY WORK FORCE MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ABSORB DURING POST-EXPO PERIOD. EMBASSY WILL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH COMUSJAPAN ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO MINIMIZING THE ADVERSE IMPACT. ONE AREA THAT WILL NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IS INTER-SERVICE COORDINATION OF FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS AND CON-SULTATIONS WITH GOJ IN CONTEXT OF PLANS FOR RELEASES AND BASE CONSOLIDATION PLANS. DESPITE THE GENERAL DECLINE IN PRESSURE ON OKINAWA FOR RETURN OF BASE LANDS, THE ADVERSE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE PLANNED RIF WILL BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY IF THE U.S. CAN SHOW THAT IT IS ALSO REDUCING ITS BASE REQUIREMENTS. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ANTICIPATED COMMAND STRUCTURE CHANGES WILL RESULT IN REDUCED OVERALL U.S. FORCES BASE REQUIREMENTS. HERE AGAIN, HOWEVER, THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOJ UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF OUR LONG -RANGE NEEDS DEPENDS ON A COM-PREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE CHANGES NOW UNDER WAY.

4. EMBASSY IN SHORT STRONGLY RECOMMENDS AUTHORIZATION TO BRIEF GOJ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON FULL RANGE OF ANTICIPATED CHANGES ALONG LINES REF B, INCLUDING SUBJECT RIFS. WER URGE THAT NO ACTION BE TAKNE ON PLANNED ARMY RIF UNTIL THIS HAS BEEN DONE. HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TROOP REDUCTIONS, FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, MILITARY BASES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 06 MAR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO02949

Document Number: 1975TOKYO02949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750078-0703

From: TOKYO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750374/aaaacoxd.tel Line Count: 95

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 COMUSARJ 040726Z Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15 JUL 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ARMY REDUCTION IN FORCE TAGS: MARR, MORG, JA, US
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006